

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), as indicated below:

1 (currently amended): A device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) said device comprising a drive system for moving the flats (7), which includes guide wheels, having toothed gears (9) and a cogged belt having an inner surface and an outer surface(23), which are said inner surface is equipped, with one or more scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) that eliminate the accumulation of foreign bodies from the guides (10)by direct contact of the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) with the guides (10), on which the resting elements of the flats (7) are moved, additionally said outer surface of said cogged belt is equipped with equally spaced raised protuberances (24) for interacting with toothed gears from a cogged belt driving mechanism, each raised protuberance being separated from one another by lower portions (25).

2 (currently amended): The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 1, wherein the scraping and/or cleaning elements are set in the ~~bottom face~~ inner surface of the cogged belt (23) which moves the flats along the guides (10), said scraping and/or cleaning elements being made up of blades (40) which project from the ~~bottom face~~ inner surface of the cogged belt (23), on the side opposite to ~~enlarged portions~~ the periodically spaced raised protuberances (24) of said outer surface.

3 (currently amended): The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 2, wherein the blades (40) are set at right angles to the ~~longitudinal direction of movement~~ of the cogged belt (23) and toward the guides(10) or at an angle that is greater or less than 90° from the direction of movement of the cogged

belt, and towards the guides(10), in order to displace the foreign bodies removed as the blades pass over the guides (10), towards the inside of ~~the~~ a carding drum, or towards the outside of said carding drum.

4 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 2, wherein the blade (40) is inclined with respect to the direction in which the carding drum moves, in order to exert an action of detachment against the layer of foreign bodies that come up against said blade

5 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 2, wherein the blade (40) is inclined with respect to the direction in which the carding drum moves, in order to exert a pushing action, against said foreign bodies with an inclination that is in the same direction as the direction in which the carding drum moves.

6 (currently amended): The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 2, wherein the ~~blade~~ blades (40) ~~has~~ have a V-shaped profile.

7 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies in guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim1, wherein the cleaning elements comprise a scraping element (42), consisting of a plurality of rubber studs (42) arranged in a radial direction.

8 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning elements comprise a cleaning element made up op of a series of bristle brushes (41) arranged along the cogged belt (23) in a direction that faces its guide (10).

9 (currently amended): The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies in guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 1, wherein the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are separately fixed to the ~~bottom face~~ inner surface of the drive belt (23).

10 (previously presented) The device fore preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 9, wherein different types of scraping or cleaning elements (40,41, 42) are used jointly on the same cogged belt, wherein scraping elements of different inclination, material and orientation are successively disposed on said cogged belt.

11 (currently amended): The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim1, wherein the scraping or cleaning element (40, 41, 42) ~~are set~~ are attached to said inner surface of the cogged belt (23) at a position that corresponds to the raised protuberances located on the outer surface of said cogged belt(23). ~~underneath enlarged portions (24) of cogged belts (23) as well as corresponding to in positions corresponding to the position of a flat(7), and said enlarged portions~~ raised protuberances all perform both a functi0on of constraint with the flats and the function of interacting with a cogged belt driving mechanism to progress the scraping or cleaning element (40, 41, 42) along the guide (10) by means of the raised protuberances and lower portions forming a structure that receives a gear tooth from a cogged belt driving mechanism. ~~geared drive toothing in order to grip, by means of protruding profile, the toothed driving and return idler wheels (9), said enlarged portions (24) being set apart from one another by a series of lower portions~~

12 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 1, wherein the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are set in positions opposite to constraint bodies (51, 55) for connection to the cogged belt (23), said constraint bodies (51, 55) forming cavities to constrain pins

(32) of flats (7), and having alternately set separate bodies (52) between said constraint bodies (51,55) with profiles which correspond to the toothing of guide wheels (9) and are designed to mesh with the said toothing of guide wheels (9), in order to transmit driving motion for circulation of flats (7).

13 (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to claim 12, wherein the constraint bodies (51, 55), wherein the constraint bodies (51,55) and the separate bodies (52) are produced separately and then applied to the belt (23).